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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND
PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION
OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND
DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 25 June 1993 from the representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Joint Declaration by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, signed at Guatemala City on 17 June 1993 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 36.

(Signed) Carlos AROSEMENA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Panama

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Guatemala

(Signed) Guillermo MELENDEZ
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of El Salvador

(Signed) Nelson Alexander VALENZUELA
Deputy Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Erich C. VILCHEZ ASHER
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Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua

(Signed) José María BORBON
Ambassador
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ANNEX

Joint Declaration by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, signed at Guatemala City on 17 June 1993

We, the Presidents of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, have met at Guatemala City on 17 June 1993 to reaffirm our commitment to the strengthening of peace and the democratic development of the region.

Central America has made significant progress in the processes of peace, democratization and integration, establishing its own principles and goals, adopting fundamental decisions on its political, economic, social and cultural future and strengthening the regional democratic institutions in the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA). This work has to be broadened to include the constructive contributions of the various sectors of Central American society.

It is our unswerving conviction that the development of the region can be achieved only in an environment of peace and democracy, and that democracy is strengthened through representative and pluralistic systems of political organization, with strict observance of human rights, absolute transparency in the exercise of the functions of government and respect for the constitutional State.

Central America is taking the path of democratic institutions, which it is enriching and renewing in accordance with the needs and characteristics of each country. Threats to the institutional order have merely had the effect of fortifying and sharpening the people's desire for democracy, which is deeply rooted in our societies.

With democratic and constitutional systems now in place throughout Central America, it is necessary for us to continue improving the underpinnings for those systems, enlisting the assistance and involvement of all citizens, until we achieve social frameworks in which the full and dignified development of the individual is ensured.

We declare that democracy and peace can be strengthened only if social justice is achieved and there is genuine human development. We therefore renew our commitment to combat poverty and to promote more and better opportunities in education, housing, health and productive work for our peoples.

In the light of the foregoing, we renew our commitment to promote and defend in all circumstances respect for basic human rights and the strengthening of the constitutional State. We reiterate our firm determination to continue to develop democracy and peace in Central America, promoting dialogue, coordination and consensus, and furthering the process of regional integration.

We recognize with satisfaction that the recent political crisis in Guatemala has been settled peacefully, in strict conformity with the constitutional and legal requirements of Guatemala, and we therefore warmly

welcome the content of resolution MRE/res.2.93 on the restoration of democracy in Guatemala, which was adopted by the Ad Hoc Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of American States on 8 June 1993.

We, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, repeat publicly our gratitude for the determination shown by all sectors of Guatemalan society, which, with patriotism, courage and an iron will, fought resolutely to re-establish the constitutional order, thereby ensuring that the rule of law prevailed fully again, and that democratic institutions were strengthened as a result. We express our firm support for the constitutional Government of President Ramiro De León Carpio and the people of Guatemala in the reaffirmation of their democratic vocation.

We state our intention to hold the next meeting of Presidents in this city from 12 to 14 August of this year.

We, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, thank President Ramiro De León Carpio, his Government and the noble people of Guatemala for hosting this meeting and for extending kindnesses and warm hospitality which made possible its successful conclusion.

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 17 June 1993

Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier
President of the Republic of
Costa Rica

Alfredo Félix Cristiani Burkard
President of the Republic of
El Salvador

Ramiro De León Carpio
President of the Republic of
Guatemala

Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero
President of the Republic of
Honduras

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro
President of the Republic of
Nicaragua

Guillermo Endara Galilmany
President of the Republic of
Panama